

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10-15, 17 and 18 are pending in this application. Claims 3, 9 and 16 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Note is taken of the objection to the drawings (Office Action, numbered paragraph 3). However, the objection is not understood. The claims do not recite a scheduler "comprising" a first and second pipeline stage; therefore the requirement show such a recitation in the drawings has no apparent foundation in the claim language. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection, or at least clarification as to the reason for it, is respectfully requested.

The title of the invention was objected to. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested in view of the adoption by the Applicant of the title suggested by the Examiner, as reflected in the amendment to the specification set forth above.

Claim 13 was objected for a minor informality. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested in view of the amendment to claim 13 set forth above.

Claims 1-6 and 13-18 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Hirata et al. (US 5,430,851, hereafter "Hirata"). Of these claims, claims 1,2, 4-6, 13-15, 17 and 18 remain pending.

The Applicant respectfully submits that Hirata does not anticipate the present claims for at least the reason that Hirata does not disclose merging and remapping a plurality of instruction subgroups, each subgroup from a respective separate instruction group, as required by each of independent claims 1 and 13. This capability according to embodiments of the present invention is described by way of three examples, starting on p. 7, line 3 and extending to p. 8, line 13. More specifically, referring to p. 7, lines 5 and 6, for example, the "only 3 of the instructions" is a subgroup of the "first instruction group." While Hirata describes processing instruction "streams," Hirata is silent as to instruction *groups* and *subgroups* as required by the present claims. An instruction "stream" does not imply an instruction "group" and "subgroup."

In view of the above, claims 1 and 13 are allowable over Hirata. Claims 2 and 4-6 depend on claim 1 and claims 14, 15, 17 and 18 depend on claim 13. Therefore, these dependent claims are also allowable over Hirata for at least the reasons discussed in connection with the independent claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4-6, 13-15, 17 and 18 as anticipated by Hirata is respectfully requested.

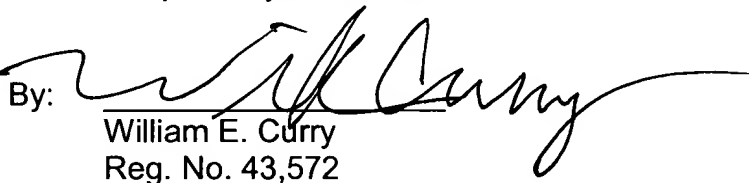
Claims 7-12 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirata in view of Tannenbaum. These claims, either directly in independent claim 7 or by dependency thereon, include the recitation of groups and subgroups discussed above. Tannenbaum does not remedy the deficiency in Hirata with respect to this recitation, and accordingly, claims 7-12 are allowable over Hirata in view of Tannebaum. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 7-12 under 35 USC 103(a) is therefore respectfully requested.

In light of the above discussion, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in all aspects in allowable condition, and earnestly solicits favorable reconsideration and early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4323 to discuss any matter concerning this application. The Office is authorized to charge any fees related to this communication to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

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